



## Java Head

Joseph Hergesheimer (1880 - 1954)

*“Java Head is a novel of the American merchant marine at the beginning of the great clipper ship era. It is laid in Salem, when that city was still a port rich with the traffic of the East Indies; a story of choleric ship masters, charming girls, and an aristocratic Manchu woman in carmine and jades and crusted gold. There is a drama as secret and poisonous as opium, lovely old gardens with lilac trees and green lattices, and elm-shaded streets ending at the harbor with the brigs unloading ivory from Africa and the ships crowding on their topsails for Canton. It is a romantic novel -- and yet true -- rather than a study of drab manners; there is no purpose in it other than the pleasure to be found in the spectacle of life supported by high courage and made beautiful by women in peacock shawls.”* (from the back cover of the 1919 edition)

Running time 07:51:46

Read by Margaret Espailat

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney  
Cover art by Fitz Hugh Lane, *Clipper ship 'Southern Cross' leaving Boston Harbor, 1851*



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